

REMARKS

The Official Action of April 15, 2004, and the prior art cited and relied upon therein have been carefully studied. The claims in the application are now claims 1-3 and 5-20, and these claims define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Favorable reconsideration and such allowance are respectfully urged.

Claim 4 has been canceled and new claims 19 and 20 added. Claims 1-3 and 5-20 remain in the application for consideration.

In response to the Examiner's objection to the specification and rejection of claims 8, 9, and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, Applicant has deleted the reference to claim 1 in the specification and amended claims 8, 9 and 15-17 to eliminate each of the problems identified by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully submits that this objection has now been overcome.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for her indication that claims 4-6 and 11-17 would be allowable subject to being rewritten in independent form and that claims 8-9 and 15-16 would be allowable subject to overcoming her 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph rejection. In response, Applicant has

combined the features of claim 1 and allowable claim 4 in new independent claim 19, and claims 1, 5 and allowable claim 6 in new independent claim 20. Applicant respectfully submits that new independent claims 19 and 20 are now allowable.

The Examiner has further rejected claims 1-3, 5, 7, 10 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Hirohita '794, and claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirohita in view of Lewis '739. Applicant respectfully traverses both of these rejections especially as applied to claim 1 as amended.

As the Examiner will note, claim 1 has been amended to include the feature "wherein at least two of said functional units are arranged displaceable relative to the swivel head" in order to emphasize the difference between the subject matter claimed and Hirohita.

Hirohita discloses (see Fig. 1) a grinding machine with a bed 11, a headstock 13 and a tailstock 14 to support and rotate a work piece A along a longitudinal axis. Hirohita further discloses a bearing 20 with a motor 30 and grindstones B, wherein the grindstones B are rotated around axis 37 (see Figs. 2 to 4). The central point of the grindstones B

according to Hirohita therefore always remains at the same place on the bearing 20 and each grindstone B does only rotate around its axis.

In comparison, the machine according to claim 1 comprises functional units which are arranged displaceable relative to the swivel head. Applicant respectfully submits that rotating the functional unit of Hirohita around an axis is not "displacing" the functional unit relative to its swivel head, since the rotation keeps the center of gravity undisturbed and therefore the functional unit as such is not displaced, only its orientation relative to the swivel head is changed.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention patentably defines over Hirohita and that claim 1 and claims dependent therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

Acknowledgement by the PTO of the receipt of applicants' papers filed under Section 119 is noted.

The prior art documents made of record and not relied upon have been noted along with the implication that such documents are deemed by the PTO to be insufficiently

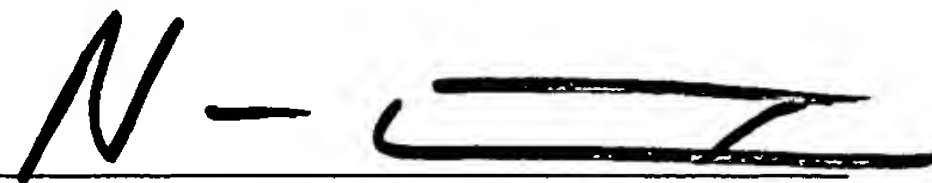
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Reply to Office Action of April 15, 2004

pertinent to warrant their applications against any of
applicant's claims.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance are
earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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